

## Note on a Needle Grinder from Priddy Hill.

BY L. W. G. MALCOLM.

The needle-grinder described in the present note was found by Mr. A. Selley on the surface near Priddy Hill, Somerset. It is of fine micaceous schist\* and measures 96 cm. long, and about 20 cm. wide on each side. On three surfaces are characteristic grooves made by grinding bone needles, or awls. One of the surfaces is worn down, and was probably used as a rubber (Fig. 1, Plate 1).

Needle-grinders have occasionally been reported from Palæolithic sites, especially from Magdalenian times, and they appear to have been first used when bone and wood tools came into general use. They are found in many Neolithic settlements, especially in the neighbourhood of pile-dwellings. They seem to have disappeared during the Metal ages, but occur occasionally in late Celtic times. The needle-grinder from Priddy Hill is probably of late date, although there is no conclusive evidence as to its exact age.

Fig. 2., Plate 1., represents a Magdalenian sandstone needle-grinder from Les Eyzies; and Fig. 3, Plate 1, a slate needle-grinder which is used by present-day leather workers in Bristol.

\*Mr. F. S. Wallis informs me that this rock has been imported, as it does not otherwise occur in the South or West of England.

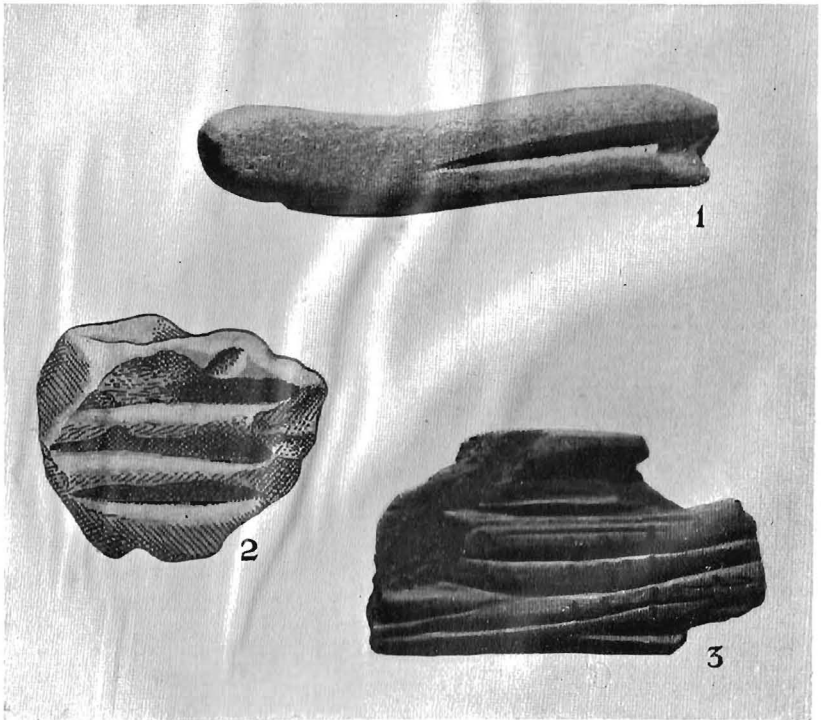


PLATE I.